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# The Defence of Britain against Exotic Diseases

BY

**H. T. MATTHEWS**

**Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies, University of Cambridge**

THE narrow seas surrounding Great Britain have served us well as a barrier to invasion from the Continent. That diseases have travelled with armies and along trade routes has been realised for at least 500 years and the phenomenon of infection or contagion recognised much longer, without any knowledge of the micro world to supply the key to explanation. So it is that artificial barriers were erected in places from time to time ; the *quaranto giorno* detention of people seeking to land in the Venetian republic, from which we derive the word quarantine ; road barriers against people and cattle in various places.

The Black Death of the Middle Ages is recorded as having swept across Europe from the East and, surmounting the water barrier, killed half the population of London. More than 300 years later, time enough to forget, the " Great Plague " struck again. Rinderpest of cattle presents a comparable picture in the farming world. Successive waves across Europe from the East reached Britain, carried by live cattle, with devastating effect on the native stock. So the word " exotic " came to have a special significance in relation to infectious diseases travelling out of the East and the risks of admitting livestock from the Continent began to be widely realised. Government prohibition of landing animals from Europe was actually imposed as long ago as 1770 but such a gross interference with trade did not last uninterrupted.

At the first international veterinary congress in 1863, Gamgee propounded the thesis that all the major epizootics were infectious to which Dick, his former tutor, responded with a paper " On the Non-contagious Nature of Epizootic Diseases." Confusion seems to have reigned during the severe visitation of rinderpest from Russia two years later, which is recorded as having killed one-tenth of the whole cattle population. But a policy of slaughter, restriction of movement and control of further imports eventually prevailed.

The 1880s saw the dawn of bacteriology as a science and Pasteur suffered a storm of argument about his " microbiolatry." It seems that the great man gave back as much as he got and established both facts and theories so that the behaviour of infectious diseases became greatly clarified and, from late in the century, the principle of prohibited or controlled import of livestock has been continuous policy. But it became evident that some diseases travel without the live animal

and that is substantially the problem at the present time. What are the disease risks attendant upon regular trade imports of such things as meat, hides, bone for fertiliser and so on ?

To present a balanced and comprehensive picture one would require access to all the current official information in the countries from which Britain derives animal products, and some knowledge of trade processing, distribution and use after arrival. The present article seeks only to illustrate by reference to some specific conditions.

It seems unlikely that the diseases which have been eradicated in the past will return to Britain although they are known to be current in different parts of the world with which we trade. Sheep pox is recorded in France, Spain and Portugal, glanders in several European countries, contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle in South-West Europe and, of course, in other continents. Rabies is widespread over the world and rinderpest still takes heavy toll in the Far East and Africa. There is no warrant to be complacent about the situation and trade demands may increase the hazards. For example, towards the end of the last war, we were searching the world for meat, and rinderpest country in Africa was considered as a source. Instead, we purchased poultry carcases from Central Europe and, with them, Newcastle disease which has been here ever since, to the great concern of the poultry industry.

Foot-and-mouth disease is illustrative of a risk which we take because of trade requirements. For many years we have bought meat from the Argentine and, although precautions are taken there, every now and then an infected consignment slips through. Then meat or bone scraps come into contact with livestock, often by way of the swill tub, and disease flares up with all the consequent upset of agriculture. The Boiling of Animal Foodstuffs Order probably saves us many initial cases but the difficulties of ensuring that every tiny piece is properly sterilised, are enormous. The outbreak which caused such consternation in Canada three years ago is said to have been traced to unconsumed sausage, carried by an immigrant from Europe. The evidence is now very strong that this country is also vulnerable to another source in bird migrations, a quite uncontrollable natural phenomenon. When disease exists in Northern France and the Low Countries, at the right season, we can expect it to be conveyed in this way across the seas.

The six months' period of rigid quarantine imposed on imported dogs and cats comes in for a lot of criticism. It does not seem to be realised that rabies is still to be found all over the world, that it can affect all mammals and that it is a certain killer once clinical signs develop. It is not widely publicised that dogs quarantined in this country develop the disease at the rate of about one a year, nor that six months is by no means the end point of incubation.

Swine fever has produced an excellent illustration of how diseases travel with armies. Our American allies carry their own foodstuffs, among them pig meat from the Middle West. They left a trail of outbreaks in hitherto free countries, Northern Ireland, Australia, Morocco and the North African coast, not to speak of countries whose previous state we do not know with certainty, Italy, Corsica, France, Iceland and the West Indies.

So the possible modes of entry are multiple. Importation of the live domestic or captive animal is severely restricted. Human travellers are not known to have conveyed animal diseases from abroad although occasionally suspected. Wild birds cannot be controlled. Inanimate objects ranging from milk, meat and egg products to packing straw and bulbs are restricted in varying measure. It may be noted that air travel makes it possible for insects and other small living things to be conveyed inadvertently from anywhere on the earth's surface, but no problem relating to animal disease appears to have arisen in Britain from this source. Despite the sea barrier, then, we are by no means entirely protected from invasion.

It is not possible to predict how a newly introduced infection would behave but we can start with the assumption that the livestock population would prove highly susceptible to some infections which are endemic elsewhere. Rinderpest, for instance, might prove disastrous as it used to be. Myxomatosis of rabbits, on its first field trials in this country 20 years ago, failed to spread, but we now have accounts of its explosive nature in Australia and experience of its comparable character in this country where it has invaded every county in a short space of time. It is therefore evident that the authorities whose duty it is to keep watch on the world situation must take a conservative view of adding to the existing risks.

Pressure to relax restrictions so that Landrace pigs could be imported from Sweden resulted in the acquisition of a disease new to most of us, called atrophic rhinitis. Curiously, a condition of rhinitis with atrophy has recently been found among indigenous pigs but it does not behave similarly to that encountered in the imported pigs and their contacts. It is perhaps only fair to say that atrophic rhinitis is not confined to the one breed of pig nor to Sweden in Europe. That it has achieved the status of a scheduled disease is an indication that we intend to eradicate it.

Teschen disease of pigs, an encephalomyelitis, prevalent in Central Europe, may yet be the cause of serious misgivings if the political situation demands a greatly increased trade exchange with the territories beyond the Iron Curtain. Information on the state of health of the livestock in Russia itself is not freely published and we cannot help looking on that vast country as a potential source of danger to us.

Britain is fortunate to be free from *Brucella suis*, so far as is known. A troublesome organism among the pigs of America, it is also to be found in Europe and does not confine itself to pigs. A more fragile pathogen than many that threaten us, its chances of surviving a journey are possibly less than those of some viruses. But there was a time when it was believed that the virus of swine fever could not live in cured pig meat or Salmonella in dried egg, so it would be very unsound to assume that processed animal products are innocuous until the processing has been tested on a large scale. Vesicular exanthema is spread in America through uncooked garbage. Epidemic tremor of poultry is egg transmitted. *Vibrio foetus* survives in deep-frozen semen and could become a serious problem of international exchange.

With our insular outlook, we are inclined to look overseas for the source of any disease which is new to

us. Q fever turned up in recent years as a problem of public health, prominent in Queensland and U.S.A. It is now known to be quite widespread among cattle and sheep of this country, although causing them no apparent damage, but when and how we acquired the Rickettsia is obscure. Virus hepatitis of ducklings is still more recent but it is not evident that it travelled from its traditional home in Long Island. A restriction on importation of live animals is now seen to be only a partial protection principally against the spectacular killing infections, and still necessary ; but the expansion of world trade brings new problems related to the less dramatic conditions, some of which are, no doubt, hidden from us at present.

To present the other side of the picture, we are a potential source of danger to other countries through the export of our pedigree stock. An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Britain causes the imposition of a ban on exports to many places until the outbreak is safely dealt with. Controllable minor maladies, such as mange in cattle, have been a source of protest from importing countries. Johne's disease, widespread and difficult to recognise in its pre-clinical state, has been the origin of many regulations governing acceptance of British livestock. Traffic in disease is not a one-way flow and many countries have formulated their requirements to be complied with before they will admit animals from Britain.

But, to return to the main theme, we can be reasonably satisfied with the established defences against invasion. Responsibility for vigilance, policy, administration and execution rests with the Ministry of Agriculture. Both the authority and the machinery are available to deal with any of the old pestilences should they return and the organisation is now sufficiently flexible to give some confidence that strange diseases would not escape notice for long. The general practitioner no longer works in isolation, dependent on his own resources. If he encounters something new, the Ministry's field staff and the veterinary investigation laboratories are available to help in elucidating the problem.

It is now clear that the old idea of diseases coming to us out of the East and in the live animal has given way to a realisation of the wider risks associated with all trade routes, and that Britain is not the only country concerned to defend itself. All the more reason then for the Food and Agriculture Organisation to collect and distribute information about all territories so that hazards may be estimated by calculation instead of by guess and prejudice.

## Cattle Blood-typing in Canada

In Canada the blood of all bulls used for A.I. is typed, and records are kept of the results. Last year the Ontario Veterinary College blood-typed 106 bulls, including 40 privately owned. Freemartin tests are also regularly carried out, and from 220 sets of " mixed " twins, 20 heifer calves were found to be normal. Parentage tests involving 1,336 animals were performed during the year, and in 279 out of 329 cases it was possible to give a definite answer. In the College's annual report for 1954 a very brief reference is made to the court case which made forensic history, when for the first time in Canada—and perhaps in the whole world—the results of a blood test to prove parentage of an animal were submitted and accepted as evidence.

The case involved a charge of false registration and violation of the Livestock Pedigree Act. The defendant had been accused of falsifying the pedigrees of Holstein-Friesian cattle on his farm, and was convicted on one of the five charges, the hearing of the others being adjourned.

In his application for registration the defendant had stated that his heifer Mary Bess Supreme was by Penvale Supreme out of Lady Bess Rena Echo. The prosecution was able to show, by two separate methods, that this information was false. First they called as a witness an experienced technician from an A.I. Centre, who gave evidence that he had inseminated the cow Lady Bess Rena Echo only four months before the heifer registered as Mary Bess Supreme was claimed to have been born, and at that time the cow had not been in calf. Two veterinarians then testified for the prosecution that an experienced A.I. technician would definitely know if a cow that far advanced in pregnancy was in calf.

After cross-examination, during which the inseminator had to produce his records, with dates of insemination and details of identification of the dam and sire used, the Court accepted that Lady Bess Rena Echo could not have given birth to a calf at the time claimed by the defendant. The Court also accepted the evidence of Dr. Humble, of the Ontario Veterinary College, to the effect that blood tests showed that the heifer could not have been the daughter of Lady Bess Rena Echo and Penvale Supreme.

The basis of this evidence was that to prove parentage of an animal, all the factors found in the blood of a calf must be present in the blood of either the sire or the dam. If certain of the factors found in the blood of the calf could not be found in the blood either of the sire or the dam, then that calf could not have been the result of that particular mating—as in this case. G. P. W.

### HOLIDAY EXCHANGE

Mr. Ralph Moberg, of the Royal Veterinary College, Stockholm, 51, writes to ask whether any member of the profession will offer summer holiday hospitality to his 15-year-old son. He would like to make contact with a veterinarian having a son of about the same age. In return, Mr. Moberg would welcome into his own home in Finland the son or daughter of a British veterinarian for the following summer holiday, during the period mid-June to mid-August. Travelling costs, it is suggested would be met by the respective parents. Anyone who would care to take up Mr. Moberg's suggestion is asked to write to him direct.

# Parasitic Helminths in Mediaeval Remains

BY

**E. L. TAYLOR**

**Veterinary Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture, Weybridge**

IT is not often that we have the opportunity of digging up the wormy past and although I have been able to find two records of the recovery of helminths from ancient human remains, no corresponding account concerning animals appears to have found its way into the veterinary literature. It is a privilege, therefore, to be able to make a report on some material that may be of animal origin and that was excavated in some medieval remains in the city of Winchester.

The first of the two previous records that have just been mentioned was a note by Ruffer, published in 1910. Ruffer had already perfected a method for the histological examination of mummified tissues, and being afforded the opportunity of applying it to six Egyptian mummies of the 20th dynasty, dating back to between 1250 and 1000 B.C., he was able to recognise atheroma, pneumonia, renal abscesses and cirrhosis of the liver. His publication then goes on to state:—

"At the present time there is perhaps no disease more important to Egypt than that caused by *Bilharzia haematobia*. So far no evidence has been produced to show how long it has existed in this country, although medical papyri contain prescriptions against one of its most prominent symptoms—namely, haematuria. The lesions of this disease are best seen in the bladder and rectum, but unfortunately these are just the two mummified organs which I have not been able to obtain so far. Nevertheless, in the kidneys of two mummies of the 20th dynasty I have demonstrated in microscopic sections a large number of calcified eggs of *Bilharzia haematobia*, situated, for the most part, among the straight tubules."

The second report was made by Szidat in 1944 and referred to the finding of the eggs of *Ascaris* and of *Trichuris* in the contents of the bowel of the body of a 12- to 14-year-old girl, thought to date back some 2,500 years, and the body of a man, dating back some 1,000 years. Strange as it may seem, the 2,500-year-old material was in the better state of preservation. Szidat remarks on the extraordinarily perfect state of the eggs of *Trichuris* and briefly discusses a theory of preservation by humic acids subsequently neutralised by springs from underlying calcareous deposits.

The Winchester site was first of interest on account of Roman remains found there during preparations that were made for a new central car park. These excavations which have been carried out by Winchester City Council (Bennet-Clark, 1954) and directed by Miss Sarnia Butcher have revealed mosaic floors, the foundations of walls of rooms and certain interesting fragments of pottery and of bronze. In close proximity to one of the walls, however, a medieval tank or pit was discovered, some 8 ft. by 10 ft. in diameter and lined with planks on a framework of timbers six and a half inches square. This is depicted in Fig. 1, taken from a photograph kindly supplied by Miss Sarnia Butcher. The damp filling of this pit contained, among other things of little note, certain shreds of pottery that are considered by experts in these wares to date back to the late 11th or early 12th century. The material with which the present report is concerned was found 8 ft. below the surface of the ground, during the careful excavation of the tank, where the workers came across a layer of consolidated material of a dark greenish-grey colour and a consistency approaching that of peat. The faecal nature of the deposit was first suspected as a result of the observation of contained elements that might have represented the remains of straw or other bedding and a sample was taken for microscopical examination.

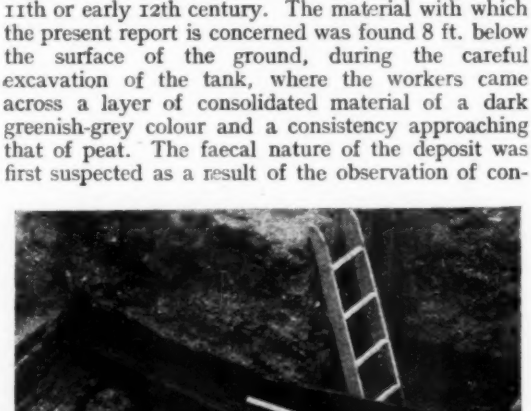

FIG. 1.—Mediaeval pit in which the faecal remains were found, and a square hole beyond the pit which was dug in an endeavour to assist in drainage. The white strip represents one foot in length.

It is interesting to note at this point how the techniques of veterinary parasitology were used for the purpose of ancient historical investigation. Among the helpers in the actual excavation of the site was a veterinary colleague, Mr. C. T. McCrea, who applied the laboratory techniques for the helminthological examination of faeces in an endeavour to ascertain the nature of the deposit. On recognising the presence of the eggs of nematodes he sent a sample to Weybridge and I am greatly indebted to him for the opportunity of furthering the enquiry.

This first small sample revealed no less than 5,700 eggs per gramme of *Trichuris trichura*, 600 of *Ascaris lumbricoides*, and the presence of *Dicro-*

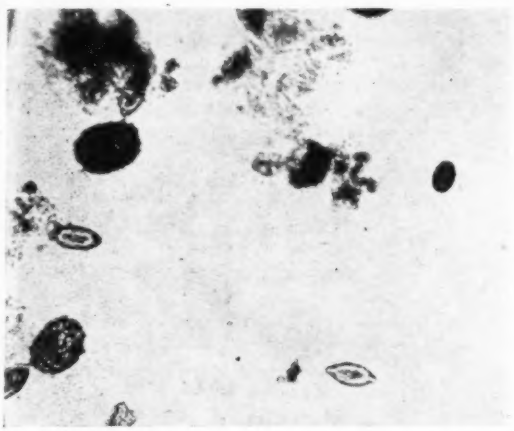

FIG. 2.—Single field under the microscope showing eggs representing all three species, *D. dendriticum*, *T. trichura* and *A. lumbricoides*. Because of differences in density and colour of the shells they are less clear than in Fig. 3 for which three separate photographs were made.

*coelium dendriticum*. A subsequent request for further material produced a much more generous consignment and we received a block measuring some 6 x 6 x 3 inches. A section through the middle of this block showed its surprisingly solid consistency and a pronounced lamination resulting from the successive deposition of faecal layers in which the remains of twigs could be seen, but neither straw nor any other recognisable structure. In a search for additional data, however, it was decided to make separate examinations of different layers, the findings in which were as follows:—

TABLE I

NUMBER OF EGGS PER GRAMME FROM FIVE DIFFERENT LAYERS IN THE BLOCK OF MATERIAL

| Successive layers ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Trichuris trichura* ... | 2,900 | 1,722 | 2,416 | 2,782 | 1,389 |
| *Ascaris lumbricoides* ... | 4,300 | 324 | 389 | 335 | 523 |
| *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*... | 36 | 33 | 3 | 13 | 6 |

One interesting point to mention here is the extraordinarily good state of preservation of the shells of the eggs, particularly those of *Trichuris* where even the bipolar plugs, which might have been regarded as of a delicate construction, appear as perfect as when laid. Szidat (1944), also remarked on this interesting point. The same perfect preservation is also seen in the contents of some of these eggs which show the clear outlines of larval integuments with little indication of degenerative change. The eggs of *Dicrocoelium* were similarly unspoiled, as also were the majority of the eggs of *Ascaris*. The absence of any strongyloid egg is, however, noteworthy and is doubtless to be explained by the more delicate nature of the shells of those eggs and their consequent failure to resist disintegration.

Whoever is concerned with an archaeological find soon comes to the intriguing point of speculation as to its origin. Two possibilities are now presented concerning the Winchester material; first the more obvious one, that it is of porcine origin. *Ascaris lumbricoides* and *Trichuris trichura* are prevalent parasites of swine at the present time: *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* in the pig appears less likely, although it does occur in these animals in countries where it abounds. The helminthic infestation of itself, therefore, would agree with the porcine theory. The second possibility was suggested to me by Professor Leiper who thought the human origin of the material could not be altogether ruled out. It might even be suggested (by a mere reporter on antiquities) that the site of this archaeological find was some form of latrine, similar to those deep pits used in tropical countries, wherein the faecal matter of years is allowed to collect. The high egg count could then be explained by the concentration of all non-fermentable material during the passage of time. The relatively large size and solid construction of the pit could be taken as indicating the latrine of a prison or a mad-house, which lurid supposition would still further explain the high degree of parasitism. Professor Leiper thought the presence of the eggs of *Dicrocoelium* might be an example of pseudo-parasitism, through man having eaten the livers of heavily infected animals, and the eggs of the worms having passed through unchanged—this is a route by which a number of the supposed parasites of man and animals have found their way into the parasitological literature. As deer were prevalent at the period concerned, the site of the Winchester material could be supposed at one time to have been in the proximity of some poacher's household! Or perhaps the infected livers had been given by the wealthy owners to the servants of the household? That, however, is a speculation by the way.

One notable feature of the several egg counts tabulated above is the very unusually high proportion of *Trichuris* to *Ascaris* as compared with the numbers recovered from living pigs to-day. Table II shows the relationship of the numbers of eggs of these two species per gramme of porcine faeces sent into the laboratory at Weybridge for microscopical examination during 1952 and 1953, excluding those more numerous samples in which neither species was represented.

TABLE II

EGGS OF *Ascaris* AND *Trichuris* IN PIG FAECES—PER GRAMME

| *Ascaris* | *Trichuris* |
|---|---|
| 8,900 | 200 |
| 19,700 | <100 |
| 5,200 | 900 |
| 2,700 | <100 |
| 70,800 | <100 |
| <100 | 200 |
| <100 | 100 |
| 900 | 100 |
| 300 | <100 |
| 28,300 | 100 |
| 2,600 | <100 |
| <100 | 100 |

(*a*) (*b*) (*c*)

FIG. 3.—(*a*) Egg of *Ascaris lumbricoides*; (*b*) Egg of *Trichuris trichura*; (*c*) Egg of *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*, from faecal material some 800 or 900 years old found in the excavation of Roman and mediaeval remains at Winchester.

The marked difference in this numerical relationship between the new and the 1,000-year-old material, however, does not necessarily indicate a human origin for the Winchester material. Reference to some of the numerous records of faecal examination among human populations in Central and South America, and in Asiatic countries, where hygiene is of a primitive kind, shows the same preponderance of the eggs of *Ascaris* as occurs in present-day pigs. Some alternative explanation must therefore be found for the reversal of the proportions in the ancient material, and it is suggested that whereas the eggs of strongyles have completely disintegrated and the eggs of *Trichuris* have withstood the prolonged period of time, those of *Ascaris* hold an intermediate position in the matter of durability, so that only a relatively small proportion have remained unchanged.

Reference must now be made to the unexpected occurrence of *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*. At first there would appear to be no argument against the assumption that in the 11th or 12th century this species was to be found in the South of England, although at the present time its occurrence in Great Britain is confined to some of the Hebridian Islands and to circumscribed areas of the West Coast of Scotland.

Species of snail that are recognised by malacologists as suitable vectors are of frequent occurrence in the southern parts of England. Why, therefore, should this small hepatic trematode have retired to distant parts? Those who are familiar with the remarkable developments in connection with the high degree of host-parasite specificity between schistosomes and their molluscan vectors may like to attribute the reason to some physiological difference between the Hebridian and the southern snails, but the problem of explaining a change in the snail physiology since A.D. 1100 would still remain, or alternatively of explaining the disappearance of the suitable varieties from the greater part of the country.

Another notable feature of the find concerns the remarkable uniformity of proportionate numbers of the various kinds of eggs from the several layers of the Winchester material. This might be thought to suggest a human origin, as the comparatively rapid succession of porcine generations would presumably have resulted in a corresponding succession of differing egg counts from one layer to the next. This human explanation, however, still leaves some difficulties, as the large amount of consolidated material suggests that it may have been the accumulation of years. Certain kinds of worms, however, are now known to have a much longer life than uninstructed opinion would suppose, reliable evidence having shown an occasional longevity of some 20 or 30 years. The same individual human host might, therefore, have maintained a regular contribution of the eggs of these helminths over a prolonged period. Perhaps one should conclude, therefore, that the argument is weighted against the porcine explanation and the long-preserved evidence of a wormy past is not veterinary after all?

Those who dig into early remains doubtless expect to unearth insoluble mysteries. It is only fitting, therefore, that a helminthological enquiry such as the present one should terminate in an unsatisfactory way. The problems are, however, intriguing, and provide a pleasant exercise for the imagination—as to how the poacher secured his deer (if we accept the pseudoparasite theory) and what happened to him when he was detected; or, if a theory of true parasitism is preferred, to speculate on the circumstances under which a traveller from some distant *Dicrocoelium*-infested country returned to spend his declining years in Winchester.

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## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE VETERINARY FIELD STAFF

Mr. I. B. Dick, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Officer, has been transferred from Lincoln to Exeter.

Mr. A. Gibson, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Officer, has been transferred from Cupar to Galashiels.

Mr. M. R. MacFarlane, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Officer, has been transferred from Preston to Birkenhead Port.

Mr. D. F. MacPherson, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Officer, has been transferred from Donnock to Wick.

### ERRATUM

With reference to the paragraph on page 209 of last week's issue headed "R.A.V.C. GOLFING SOCIETY," the words "Tuesday, June 9th" should have read "*Thursday*, June 9th," which is the correct date of the Annual Meeting of this golfing society. We regret any inconvenience that may have been caused to members.

# Unilateral Pyometra in the Bitch*

BY
RICHARD H. C. PENNY
Leighton Buzzard

SMALL-animal practitioners are frequently confronted with the condition of pyometra in the bitch. Although some surgeons have adopted medical treatment as suggested by Brancker (1943), and others hysterectomy following marsupialisation (Williams, 1947), there are many who still prefer an immediate radical operation. McCunn (1953) states that occasional cases are encountered in which one uterine horn may be retained, and the writer records a case of unilateral pyometra in the bitch which might have been dealt with in this way.

*Subject*

A maiden Irish setter bitch, age eight years. Weight approximately 60 pounds. Previous heat period commenced on March 14th, 1954.

*History*

The owner presented this animal on October 5th, 1954, with a history that 10 days previously the bitch had attracted numerous males without the external signs of obvious heat. Three to four days subsequently she showed inappetence, malaise, vomition and an increased thirst. The sickness subsided but the bitch's nose became very dry and hard and at this stage the the animal was presented for treatment.

*Examination*

Her temperature was 104·5 °F. and her pulse rate 120 per minute. She was obviously dull and some degree of abdominal distension was evident. On palpation a turgid tube was easily detected in the lower abdomen, but there was no vaginal discharge, although the vulval lips were enlarged. On these findings the case was diagnosed as one of "closed pyometra" and the advantages and disadvantages of the several lines of treatment were briefly outlined to the owner. Ovarohysterectomy was advised and carried out the following morning, the condition of the bitch at that time being fairly reasonable (this was borne out by the quantity of nembutal required for anaesthesia which was 11·6 c.c.). An intravenous saline drip was set up, following the induction of anaesthesia, in an attempt to maintain the blood volume and minimise surgical shock.

*Operation*

The operation was performed in the midline and in the usual manner, and on the abdomen being opened a grossly distended cornua was visible. This was drawn through the incision and it proved to be the right uterine horn, the left horn being only slightly hypertrophied. Ligatures were applied below and above each ovary and at this stage the photograph was obtained. The stump was dealt with as recommended by Benesch and Wright (1951).

The uterus was extirpated and the abdomen closed with two rows of catgut sutures and nylon skin sutures. The bitch made an uneventful recovery.

*This article was first received on November 10th, *i.e.*, before the publication of recent papers on this subject.

*Macroscopic Examination of the Uterus*

The right horn was grossly distended with pus, but the left horn was empty. Both were incised throughout their whole length. The left horn showed a dry corrugated mucous membrane with some haemorrhages in the folds. The right horn contained the common red-brown pus with the characteristic odour. A stout probe was easily passed through the normal horn into the body and from there into the diseased horn. Both ovaries showed numerous cysts or large follicles but no corpora lutea were present.

*Discussion*

A case of unilateral pyometra in the bitch is described in which, as the bitch had no breeding value, total extirpation of the uterus was recommended. No reason could be found for the failure of the pus to invade the left horn as the normal opening was present. Turnbull (1945) reported at a meeting of the Royal Counties V.M.A. a case of unilateral pyometra in the cat with a live kitten in one horn and pus in the other.

The writer feels the case worthy of recording because of its interesting pathological aspects.

### References

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## BAXTER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Animal Health Trust announces that the first Baxter Memorial Fellowship has been awarded to Mr. A. L. Ogden, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., to enable him to carry out a survey of the problem of bovine infertility. This work will be done in close co-operation with the Milk Marketing Board and various cattle breeders.

Mr. Ogden was formerly a Research Scholar of the Trust, studying at the Institute of Agricultural Economics, Oxford. From Oxford he carried out a survey of the diseases of dairy cattle in Oxfordshire, for which he was awarded a B.Litt. (Oxon). That work should greatly facilitate the more extensive survey now to be embarked upon.

# Sir Winston Churchill, Honorary Associate of the R.C.V.S.

ON Thursday, March 10th, the Diploma of Honorary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was bestowed upon Sir Winston Churchill at 10, Downing Street, by a deputation from the Council of the Royal College. Sir Winston had intimated, when accepting the honour, that, owing to pressure of public business, he would prefer to invite the President and a small number of the Council to visit him at 10, Downing Street, rather than attend a large function.

The representatives of the Council were: the President, Dr. W. R. Wooldridge; the Senior Vice-President, Professor R. E. Glover; the Junior Vice-President, Major H. Sumner; and the Treasurer, Mr. G. N. Gould, together with two of the Committee Chairmen, Professor L. P. Pugh (Parliamentary Committee) who had been the Prime Minister's personal veterinary surgeon when in practice, and Professor H. G. Lamont (Examination and Education Committee). The Registrar, Mr. W. G. R. Oates, was in attendance.

Before the deputation left for Number 10, Downing Street, the Diploma of Honorary Associate had placed upon it the great Seal of the Royal College in red. The Diploma itself was on specially prepared vellum with the Coat of Arms of the Royal College depicted in heraldic colours. The Diploma, which was signed by the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Registrar, and dated March 10th, 1955, read as follows: —

*Photo : by courtesy of The Times.*

Representatives of the Royal College who were present at No. 10, Downing Street with the Prime Minister. The photograph shows, left to right, Professor Lamont, Professor Glover, Sir Winston Churchill, Mr. Gould, Professor Pugh, Dr. Wooldridge, Mr. Oates, and Major Sumner.

*COLLEGIUM REGIUM CHIRURGORUM VETERINARIORUM BRITANNIARUM*

*Cum ex Chartae nostrae additamento Victoria Dei Gratia Britanniarum Regina Vigesimo tertio die Mensis Augusti, Anno Domini millesimo octingestesimo septuagesimo sexto Regii Collegii Chirurgorum Veterinariorum Concilio commissa sit auctoritas creandi Honorarii Associati gradum.*

*Scitote omnes nos Collegii hujus Concilium hac auctoritate nobis jure concessa usos propter egregia ejus meria in Veterinaria arte promovenda Honorarii Associati titulum in*

*The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, K.G., O.M., C.H., contulisse.*

On arrival at Number 10, Downing Street, the representatives ot the Council, after leaving their hats and coats in the front hall, were led down the long corridor that leads from thc entrance to the Cabinet Room, and waited in the ante-room outside that room. Shortly afterwards the Prime Minister arrived from the House of Commons and bowed to the representatives as he passed into the Cabinet Room, into which the representatives were asked to enter shortly afterwards.

The President, having shaken hands with Sir Winston, then introduced each member of the delegation individually.

Sir Winston was sitting in his accustomed place at the long table with oval ends used by the Cabinet for its meetings and facing the tall windows which look out on to the gardens and on to Horse Guards Parade. He invited his guests to " sit where the Cabinet sits." The representatives of the Council accordingly took those seats usually occupied by Cabinet Ministers. The President and the Registrar were immediately beside the Prime Minister, and the others sat opposite him.

After Sir Winston had expressed his pleasure at seeing the delegation, the President, standing, addressed Sir Winston as follows:—

" Sir Winston,

" In your presence we feel that no speech other than one of your own could do justice to a man so richly and diversely endowed with quality as yourself, yet so humanly developed as to be among the most beloved of men. You are rightly acknowledged as the world's most famous statesman, yet you remain one of her best politicians. You portray the characteristics of our greatest artists in your paintings, your rhetoric and your writings, yet you have practised journalism and have enjoyed building with your own hands. You exhibit that rare combination of soldier and scholar. Indeed such is your wealth of character and accomplishment that Plato might justly envy your niche in eternity.

" So well endowed have you become with honours that further garlands would seem to be superfluous and yet there is a side of your life still unembellished, although truly reflective of the best of our island race. Like every good sire we can see you pawing the ground whilst snorting with the pleasures of the countryside. It is, therefore, fitting that the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, a body which has done so much to advance the welfare of our livestock here and overseas, should seek to express the general appreciation of your love and enjoyment of animals.

" In your younger days you were an active and skilled horseman as warrior and sportsman. As you yourself have said: ' no hour of life is lost that is spent in the saddle ' and you advised parents ' don't give your son money; as far as you can afford it give him horses.' In your later years you became, with some success, an owner of thoroughbreds. With such discernment of the value of horses you have always encouraged the humane treatment of our equine friends as was well exemplified by your interest in the Northumberland Committee. As befits an Englishman you love all animals and have played an important part in the farming world, not only by maintaining your own herds of dairy cattle and pigs, but by furthering in their earliest days the schemes for the supply of milk to nursing mothers and babes. On the more domestic scene you have enjoyed the company both of dogs, cats, and cockatoos, as well as the more unusual cranes and black swans. Even fish supply you with much interest and enjoyment. Upon occasion you may have been irascible, but so far as is known you have never suffered from distemper nor psittacosis.

" That a man of your crowded life should find time to enjoy the companionship of farming and domestic animals makes it natural for us, the profession whose work is centred on their well-being, to turn to you, the greatest of our race, as one whose inspiration we can follow in company with artists, authors, and statesmen. You will ever remain a shining example to us and we welcome you as an honorary member of our profession.

" Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, I am requested by the authority of the Council to admit you as an Honorary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

" I welcome you, congratulate you and thank you."

At the termination of his address the President, taking the Diploma from the Registrar, handed it to the Prime Minister and shook hands with him.

The Prime Minister then presented each of the delegates with a cigar (which it is unlikely they will ever smoke, such souvenirs being too precious for dispersal into ash), and then proceeded to speak in a delightfully informal manner.

He thanked Dr. Wooldridge and the representatives of the Royal College and said how glad he was to become an Honorary Associate. He supposed this honour would entitle him to treat his own horses without troubling his colleagues in the profession. He would do his best and would try to buy a few more racehorses in order to keep his hand in.

Sir Winston recalled his early experiences as a rider, both in the cavalry and on the polo field. He said that the proudest recollection of his youth was to have hit the winning goal in the inter-Regimental Tournament in India.

Sir Winston said that apart from his horses he had a lion, Rota, who, he was sorry to say, was very old. He had received a message from Rota asking him to pay him a visit and he hoped to do so very shortly. Rota had had six wives, like Henry VIII, but had not treated them so cruelly.

Sir Winston went on to say that he hoped to keep a small connection with the turf as long as he lived. He could not always expect to have the luck he had had in the past because very few people took up racing as late as 75 and had the luck to have a horse like Colonist II.

Sir Winston ended by saying that he greatly valued the Diploma. He would have it framed and hang it in his house.

Sir Winston finally led the delegation into a study adjoining the Cabinet Room where a photograph was taken, Sir Winston making jovial references to the angle at which he preferred to be photographed.

When the ceremony was completed the Prime Minister shook hands with each of the delegates, who then left with Captain Soames, M.P., his son-in-law, who had been present during the proceedings.

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## SNOW-SHOES FOR HORSES

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following interesting note on the evolution of snow-shoes for horses, as used in Canada and elsewhere.

Though quite unknown even to-day except to the packers who use it, the idea originated 75 years ago. At the start, canvas on round willow frames was tried. But even the strongest canvas quickly broke under the hooves of the heavy horses that were used in drawing great loads over soft snow-covered trails. The next step in the invention was a shoe of light rounded boards. These, too, proved impracticable.

Finally, the inventor perfected a completely satisfactory shoe. It is made of three-quarter inch iron pipe bent into a circle, with steel chains to the centre, and holding-clips for the hoof at the toe and side in the same manner as on shoes worn by man. It is a tribute to the horses' intelligence how quickly they learn. Experienced northern packers find that rarely is more than half an hour required for a horse to understand how to use them. When a snow-shoe occasionally comes loose, the animal will at once stop and wait for the packer to adjust it.

## HEALTH CONGRESS AT BOURNEMOUTH

As previously announced the Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held this year from April 26th to 29th at Bournemouth. The Veterinary Hygiene section, whose President is to be Dr. Stableforth, will include in addition to his own Address, "*Post-mortem* Changes in Meat," by Mr. J. M. Olivant who, as our readers will recall, is the first holder of the Steele-Bodger memorial award, and "Mastitis in the Dairy Cow—its Agricultural and Public Health Importance," by Dr. S. J. Edwards, of Compton.

## Lasswade

The many of our readers who have benefited from the work carried out by the Ministry's poultry laboratory at Lasswade may be interested in the following note on the historical and literary associations of the neighbourhood, for which we are obliged to a correspondent.

The village is of great antiquity. Now it is but a shadow of what it was in its hey-day during the last century, for with a decline in the use of water power, surrounding villages on the higher ground developed greatly at its expense and the process of gradual decay has increased within recent years.

According to popular belief the name Lasswade was derived from the activities of a stout and sturdy woman who carried the "gentry" over the ford before the present bridge was erected.

"When there was nae brig to cross the Esk River,
On Jenny's braid back they a' gaed the gither.
For Jenny was honest, stout, sober and steady,
She carried the laird, she carried his leddy.
When he was richt seated the doggie first gaed,
Then waving his stick he cried 'Jenny, lass, wade'."

It is a pity to question the validity of this ancient and picturesque legend, but in the interest of accuracy it must be said that there is no doubt that the origin of the name is of much greater antiquity, coming from the Anglo-Saxon "laes" a pasture and "waed" a ford (a wading place).

The immediate surroundings of the laboratory are rich in literary and historic lore. The adjoining property, Barony House, belonging to the Clerks of Penicuik, was let to Sir Walter Scott in 1798 and he spent the first few years of his married life there.

One day during a walk to Roslin through an estate opposite the laboratory (Mavisbank—now a mental home) Sir Walter slipped as he was scrambling towards a cave on the edge of a precipitous bank. In the words of Lockhart, his biographer, "had there been no trees in the way he must have been killed but midway he was stopped by a large root of hazel."

Wordsworth and his sister visited Scott at Barony House in the autumn of 1803 after their tour of the Highlands. They left their carriage at Roslin and walked down the valley to Lasswade, arriving before the Scotts had arisen! Although the house has been added to, the original "wing," with its thatched roof and priceless period furniture, remains as in Sir Walter's day, still the property of the same family and a mecca for Scott enthusiasts.

Thomas de Quincey lived nearby from 1840 till his death in 1859 and the poet Drummond lived and died at Hawthornden where his descendants still reside.

In its palmy days Lasswade was famous for its oatmeal, a local miller supplying the court of George III. It has also long been famous for its carpets and for paper-making. To-day the meal mills have gone, carpet-making has been transferred to Bonnyrigg and the good quality of the paper has largely been responsible for the demise of some of the paper mills, due to the cost of its production.

# B.V.A. CONGRESS AT BELFAST

## *September 4th to 10th, 1955*

## Provisional Programme

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th

**8.00 to 10.30 p.m.**
"At Home," given by the North of Ireland Division at the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th

**10.00 a.m.**
Civic Welcome by the Lord Mayor. Official Opening of the Congress.

**10.30 a.m.**
Opening of Congress Exhibition by the President, B.V.A.

**12 noon**
Films

**2.30 p.m.**
*Paper :* "Eradication of Brucellosis," by Dr. Wøldike Nielsen (Denmark), Dr. Mitchell (Canada) and an American speaker.
*Openers* : Mr. J. N. Ritchie, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., and another.

**8.30 p.m.**
Civic Reception in the City Hall, by kind invitation of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of Belfast.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

**9.30 a.m.**
*Paper :* "The Veterinary Surgeon and the New-born Foal," by Mr. J. S. M. Cosgrove, M.R.C.V.S.

**9.30 a.m.**
*Symposium of Short Papers :* "Vital Statistics in Veterinary Medicine." "Survey of Diseases of Dairy Cattle," by Dr. F. W. Withers, M.A., M.R.C.V.S. ; "Practical Practitioner Survey Techniques," by Dr. C. S. Grunsell, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S. ; "Survey of Sheep Diseases," by Mr. G. B. S. Heath, B.SC., F.R.C.V.S. ; "Survey of Pig Diseases," by Mr. J. F. Gracey, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.
*Opener :* Dr. A. W. Stableforth, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

**10.30 a.m.**
Last Meeting of Council, 1954–55.

**11.30 a.m.**
Annual General Meeting.

**2.30 p.m.**
Congress photograph.

**3.00 p.m.**
Garden Party given by H.M. Government of Northern Ireland at Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

**8.30 p.m.**
Ladies' Guild Dance.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

**9.30 a.m.**
*Paper :* "Impact of Environment on the Health and Productivity of Pigs," by Mr. W. A. M. Gordon, M.R.C.V.S., and Dr. D. Luke, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.
*Opener :* Dr. D. W. B. Sainsbury, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.

**9.30 a.m.**
*Paper :* "Present State of Virus Diseases of the Dog," by Dr. R. F. Montgomerie, B.SC., F.R.C.V.S., and Mr. A. B. MacIntyre, M.R.C.V.S.
*Opener :* Professor W. L. Weipers, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., F.R.S.E.

**11.30 a.m.**
Depart for visit to McGuckian's pig farm (lunch and tea *en route*),
*or* Depart for excursion to Giant's Causeway (lunch and tea *en route*).

**7.00 for 7.30 p.m.**
Annual Banquet at the Sir William Whitla Hall (no dancing).

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

**9.30 a.m.**
*Paper :* "The Effects of Atomic Explosions upon Animals," by Dr. J. F. Loutit (Atomic Experimental Research Establishment, Harwell) and Dr. Scott Russell (Dept. of Agriculture, Oxford University).

**11.00 a.m.**
*Paper :* "Recent Advances in Parasiticides."

**11.00 a.m.**
*Paper :* "Ancillary Aids to Safer Anaesthesia," by Mr. L. W. Hall, M.A., B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.
*Opener :* Dr. J. S. A. Spreull, M.R.C.V.S.

**Afternoon**
Golf, tennis, etc., and visits to places of local interest.

**8.30 p.m.**
"Ulster Night" in the Orpheus Ballroom.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

**9.30 a.m.**
*Paper :* "Adverse Conditions Produced by Man's Interference with Nature," by Dr. E. L. Taylor, C.B.E., M.R.C.V.S., D.V.H., N.D.A., N.D.D.
*Opener* : Mr. G. N. Gould, J.P., M.R.C.V.S.

**11.00 a.m.**
*Paper :* "Recent Advances in our Knowledge of the Physiology of Ruminant Digestion," by Dr. A. T. Phillipson, M.A., M.R.C.V.S., F.R.S.E.
*Opener :* Dr. F. Alexander, PH.D., M.R.C.V.S.

**11.00 a.m.**
*Paper :* "Transport of Animals and Problems Arising." "Air Transport," by Major R. C. G. Hancock, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S. ; "Rail, Road and Sea," by Mr. James Reid, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

**2.30 p.m.**
*Paper :* "Hormone Control of the Oestrous Cycle," by Professor E. C. Amoroso, PH.D., B.SC., M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.
*Opener :* Mrs. M. Sheppard, M.R.C.V.S.

**2.30 p.m.**
*Paper :* "Recent Advances in Poultry Therapeutics," by Dr. W. P. Blount, F.R.C.V.S., F.R.S.E.
*Opener* : Mr. D. L. Hughes, F.R.C.V.S., DIP. BACT.

**8.30 p.m.**
President's Reception and Dance in the Sir William Whitla Hall.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

**10.00 a.m.**
Closing Meeting of Congress. First Meeting of Council for 1955–56.

# News and Comment

## POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries announces that approximately £8,000 of the counterpart funds from United States economic aid remains available for the provision of post-graduate scholarships for vocational training in the following subjects:—

Agricultural Economics; Farm Management; Estate Management; and Land Economics and Land Use.

The scholarships will be available only for the academic year 1955-6, and their value will be between £400 and £800 plus all compulsory fees, authorised travelling expenses and a book allowance not exceeding £10. The scholarships are free of income tax. Candidates must be British subjects resident in the United Kingdom.

The qualifications required will be higher than for ordinary post-graduate scholarships. Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1-4, Cambridge Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

The closing date for the receipt of *completed* application forms is April 30th, 1955.

## LABORATORY ANIMALS BUREAU

A Symposium on the breeding of laboratory animals will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W.1, on Monday, May 9th, 1955, beginning at 10 a.m.

This Symposium is open (without further invitation) to scientific, medical and veterinary graduates, for whom it is primarily intended; senior animal technicians will also be welcome.

The Chairman will be Professor E. C. Amoroso, of the Royal Veterinary College. After the Chairman's opening remarks the following short papers will be contributed: Some Aspects of Animal Production for Routine Biological Assay, by Mr. A. L. Bacharach, M.A., F.R.I.C., Glaxo Laboratories Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex; Genetical Aspects of the Breeding of Laboratory Animals, by Dr. H. Grüneberg, D.SC., University College, London; Towards Uniformity in Experimental Animals, by Dr. D. Michie, M.A., D.PHIL., Department of Zoology, University College, London; The Value of Littermate Controls in Endocrinological Research, by Dr. A. M. Mandl, B.SC., PH.D., Department of Anatomy, University of Birmingham; The Principles of Animal Production, by Professor J. E. Nichols, M.SC., PH.D., Department of Animal Husbandry, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Reproduction Wastage I—Prenatal Loss, by Dr. J. S. Perry, B.SC., PH.D., Agricultural Research Council, Field Station, Compton; Reproductive Wastage II—Postnatal Loss, by Dr. I. W. Rowlands, M.SC., PH.D., Institute of Animal Physiology, Babraham, Cambridge; and The Problems of a Curator, by Dr. C. S. Grunsell, PH.D., M.R.C.V.S., Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh. The Symposium will end with a summary by the Chairman.

## FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE INFECTED AREA

The area described in the schedule below has been declared an Infected Area for the purpose of preventing the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

*County of Gloucester*—The Petty Sessional Divisions of Campden and Moreton in Marsh.

*Petty Sessional Division of Winchcomb*—The parishes of Snowshill and Cutsdean and so much of the parish of Temple Guiting as lies to the east of the road running from Stanway via Stumps Cross, Kineton, Barton and Fox Hill to Andoversford, excluding the said road.

*Petty Sessional Division of Stow on the Wold*—The parishes of Sezincote, Condicote, Longborough, Donnington, Swell, Broadwell, Adlestrop, Stow on the Wold, Oddington, Upper Slaughter, Maugersbury, Bledington, Lower Slaughter, Wyck Rissington, Icomb, Little Rissington, and Westcote.

*County of Northampton (Petty Sessional Division of Brackley)*—The parishes of Boddington, Aston le Walls, Chipping Warden, Edgcote, Culworth, Thorpe Mandeville, Chacombe, Middleton Cheney, Thenford, Marston St. Lawrence, Greatworth, Warkworth, Farthinghoe, King's Sutton, Newbottle, Hinton in the Hedges, Croughton, and Aynho.

*County of Oxford*—The Boroughs of Banbury, Chipping Norton, and Woodstock, the Petty Sessional Divisions of Chipping Norton and Banbury, and Bloxham.

*Petty Sessional Division of Bicester*—The parishes of Souldern, Fritwell, Somerton, Upper Heyford, and Lower Heyford.

*Petty Sessional Division of Woodstock*—The parishes of Kiddington with Asterleigh, Glympton, Wootton, Tackley, Stonesfield, Combe, Blenheim Park, and Hensington Without.

*Petty Sessional Division of Bampton East*—The parishes of Leafield and Ramsden.

*County of Warwick*—The Borough of Stratford on Avon, the Petty Sessional Divisions of Kineton and Shipston on Stour.

*Petty Sessional Division of Southam*—The parishes of Harbury, Ladbroke, Bishop's Itchington, Chapel Ascote, Hodnell, Upper Radbourn, Lower Radbourn, Wills Pastures, Priors Hardwick, Watergall, Wormleighton, Stoneton, and Fenny Compton.

*Petty Sessional Division of Warwick*—The parishes of Barford, Bishop's Tachbrook, Wasperton, Newbold Pacey, Charlecote, Moreton Morrell, and Wellesbourne.

*Petty Sessional Division of Stratford on Avon*—The parishes of Hampton Lucy, Old Stratford and Drayton, Luddington, Milcote, Clifford Chambers, Atherstone on Stour, Loxley, Ettington, Alder-

minster, Whitchurch, Preston on Stour, Admington, Quinton, Long Marston, Weston on Avon, Welford on Avon, and Dorsington.

*County of Worcester (Petty Sessional Division of Evesham)*—The parishes of Pebworth, Church Honeybourne, Cow Honeybourne, and Broadway.

## PERSONAL

**Births**

ISBISTER.—On March 12th, 1955, to Jane, wife of J. Isbister, M.R.C.V.S., of Southbar House, Inchinnan, at Westlands Nursing Home, Paisley, a son, Leslie James.

OVERTON.—On March 10th to Elizabeth (*née* Storr) and Michael Overton, M.R.C.V.S., a son, Peter John —brother for David George.

WATERSTON.—On March 12th, 1955, at Craigtoun, St. Andrews, to Bettine, wife of R. F. Waterston, M.R.C.V.S., "Merchiston," Millbank, Cupar, Fife, a son.

**Death**

TUTT.—On March 10th, at "Rothiemurchus," St. Cross, Winchester, Florence Edith, the beloved wife of Donald Tutt, F.R.C.V.S., and daughter of the late Richard Berry, of Sevenoaks.

## R.C.V.S. OBITUARY

HOPKIN, Frank, O.B.E., Major R.A.V.C. (T.A.) Retd., of 35, Manchester Road, Knutsford, Cheshire. Graduated London, July 17th, 1901. Died March 11th, 1955, aged 75 years.

STEPHENS, William Kingdon, of Garston House, Frome, Somerset. Graduated London, December 22nd, 1910. Died February 28th, 1955, aged 66 years.

WOODWARD, Solomon de Montfort, 201, Bristol Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Graduated London, December 16th, 1896. Died March 10th, 1955, aged 84 years.

## MR. SOLOMON de MONTFORT WOODWARD

The death of Mr. Solomon de Montfort Woodward as announced in our obituary column this week, robs the Midlands of one who was the doyen of the profession in that area. Having qualified in London in December, 1896, he succeeded to the practice of Mr. John Blakeway in Birmingham, 45 years ago. In those days he had an extensive horse practice, a branch of the profession in which his interest was maintained until his death. He was a past President of the Midland Counties Division of which he remained a valued member for many years. When the R.S.P.C.A. opened a new animals clinic in 1936 Mr. Woodward was one of the first veterinary surgeons to make his professional services available. He continued to assist the clinic until recently. A warm tribute was paid in the Birmingham Press to his work by an official of the Society.

## THE LATE FRANK HOPKIN, O.B.E., M.R.C.V.S.

Mr. J. K. Bateman writes:—

The passing of Frank Hopkin from our midst, at 75 years of age, removes one more of the old stalwarts of the profession, after a very full life. Frank was brought up in the tradition of the old school, and remained so, courteous and gracious to the end. He had two abiding interests, horses and his profession. From his earliest days he went hunting with the Cheshire hounds and he continued until the 1930s, when changing conditions caused him to alter his plans. Polo, too, claimed his interests and for many years he played on the Manchester polo ground at Hale.

He succeeded to his father's large horse practice in Manchester in 1922 just at a time when the transition from horse to motor vehicle was taking shape. At that time he had four forges in the city where lame horses were wont to parade for forenoon surgery most days of the week. At his headquarters at New Bridge Street there was a large "Infirmary," where colic cases trooped in on many nights of the week to keep the resident assistant fully occupied. Apart from his professional status Frank was a great judge of horses and was a buyer for many big Manchester firms. He made frequent visits to Wales and Shropshire, to purchase the lovely Shire horses which worked on Manchester's cobbled streets. He was responsible, too, for many of the beautiful police horses which won prizes for Manchester and Salford, these being largely bought in Yorkshire. As horses began to disappear Frank inevitably took to small-animal practice, but gave this up during the years of the Second World War, retaining only his greyhound practice which he held until 1953. He gave unstinted service to the Greyhound Racing Association for 25 years.

He saw service in South Africa during that war and was in the Forces in the 1914-18 war; but despite all these activities Frank spent over 30 years in the service of his profession as Secretary and Treasurer of his beloved "Benevolent." The troubles of many of our members passed through Frank's hands and all his spare time was spent in helping others.

His health was seriously undermined by the prolonged illness of his wife, to whom he was deeply attached, and he showed a loyalty and patience admired by everyone who knew them. Mrs. Hopkin predeceased him by two years and they leave one son.

## COMING EVENTS

**March**

24th (Thurs.). Annual General Meeting of the Supplementary Veterinary Register Division, B.V.A., at 7, Mansfield Street, Portland Place, London, W.1, 2 p.m.

Fourth Annual Dinner-Dance of the East Midlands Division, B.V.A., at the George Hotel, Nottingham, 7.15 p.m.

24th (Thurs.). 71st Annual General Meeting of the Western Counties Division, B.V.A., at the Rougemount Hotel, Exeter, 12.45 p.m. (luncheon), 2.30 p.m. meeting commences.

General Meeting of the Herts and Beds Division, B.V.A., at the Red Lion Hotel, Luton, 7.30 p.m.

25th (Fri.). Annual General Meeting of the South Wales Division, B.V.A., at Dolwar Café, Carmarthen, 2.15 p.m.
General Meeting of the Lincolnshire Division, B.V.A., at the Grand Hotel, Peterborough, 2.15 p.m.
Annual General Meeting of the South Wales Division, B.V.A., at the Dolwar Café, Carmarthen, 2.15 p.m.

31st (Thurs.). Annual Dinner and Dance of the Yorkshire Division, B.V.A., at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, 7 p.m.

**April**

1st (Fri.). 9th Annual General Meeting of the A.V.T. & R.W's at Maclay Hall, University of Glasgow, 17, Park Terrace, Glasgow, C.3, 10.30 a.m.

2nd (Sat.). Annual Dinner of the B.R.X. Club, at the Royal Veterinary College, 7 p.m.

20th (Wed.). Meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine, Section of Comparative Medicine, at the Society's house, 5 p.m.

23rd & 24th (Sat. & Sun.). Annual Reunion Weekend for 1952 R.V.C. graduates and contemporaries. Dinner at " Ye Miller of Mansfield " Hotel, Goring, Saturday, 7.30 p.m.

30th (Sat.). Association of State Veterinary Officers Annual General Meeting and Dinner in London.

**May**

3rd (Tues.). Afternoon Meeting of the Eastern Counties Division, B.V.A., at Colchester.

6th (Fri.). Royal Veterinary College 163rd Annual Ball at the Hyde Park Hotel.

11th (Wed.). Evening Meeting of the Eastern Counties Division, B.V.A., at Ipswich.

12th (Thurs.). R.C.V.S. Dinner, Dorchester Hotel. Further details will be published next week.

**June**

10th (Fri.). Annual Dinner of the R.A.V.C. Officers' Club, at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London.

**September**

**4th to 10th. 73rd Annual General Meeting and Congress of the British Veterinary Association at Belfast.**

## APRIL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES, B.V.A., IN EDINBURGH

AT THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES

*Monday, April 4th.*—

10.15 a.m. Veterinary State Medicine Committee.
2 p.m. Home Appointments Committee.
4 p.m. Organising Committee.

*Tuesday, April 5th.*—

10.15 a.m. Parliamentary & Public Relations Committee.
11.30 a.m. Finance Sub-committee.
2 p.m. General Purposes & Finance Committee.

*Wednesday, April 6th.*—

10.30 a.m. COUNCIL MEETING.

## ADDRESSES OF DISEASE-INFECTED PREMISES

The list given below indicates, first, the county in which are situated the premises on which disease has been confirmed, followed by the postal address and date of outbreak.

### Anthrax

*Derby*. Stanisboro Farm, Hopton, Wirksworth (Mar. 7); Beechwood, Elmete Lane, Leeds, 8 (Mar. 8).

*Leics*. Stoney Lane Farm, Markfield; Home Farm, Old Woodhouse, Loughborough (Mar. 10).

*Notts*. Maplebeck, Newark (Mar. 8).

*Westmorland*. Dedra Banks, Newby (Mar. 10).

*Yorks*. Keld Green Farm, Keld Green, Richmond (Mar. 8); Station Lane Gardens, Cliffe, Selby; Westfield Farm, Grewelthorpe, Ripon; Attested Shed, Barnsley Market, Bunkers Hill, Barnsley (Mar. 9); Wyse Hill Farm, Startforth, Barnard Castle; Grove House Farm, Southowran, Halifax (Mar. 10).

### Foot-and-Mouth Disease

*Oxon*. Hasty Leys Farm, Brailes, Banbury (Mar. 9).

### Fowl Pest

*Lincs*. 25, Grosvenor Road, Billingborough, Sleaford; 16, White Leather Square, Billingborough (Mar. 10).

*Staffs*. 83, Walsall Road, Lichfield (Mar. 4).

### Swine Fever

*Bucks*. Cippenham Lodge, Cippenham Lane, Slough (Mar. 9).

*Denbighs*. Bathafarn Farm, Ruthin (Mar. 9).

*Essex*. Hill Farm, Thornwood, Epping; The Piggeries, Albemerle Street, Harwich (Mar. 10); Hassobury Farm, Farnham, Bishop's Stortford (Mar. 11); Brick Kiln Farm, Great Totham, Maldon (Mar. 14).

*Glamorgan*. Ty Draw Farm, Llantrithyd, Cowbridge (Mar. 10).

*Herts*. The Post Office, Hare Street, Buntingford (Mar. 14).

*Lancs*. Berry's Farm, Lydiate, Maghull, Liverpool (Mar. 10).

*Norfolk*. Marsh Buildings, Home Farm, Brumstead, Stalham, Norwich; The Poplars, Forncett St. Peter, Norwich (Mar. 9); Meadow Hill Farm, Aylsham; Abbey Farm, Stonegate, Aylsham, Norwich (Mar. 14).

*Salop*. 71, High Street, Newport (Mar. 9); The Stores, Dovaston, Kinnerley, Oswestry (Mar. 10); Lacon Farm, Prees, Whitchurch (Mar. 14).

*Suffolk*. 29, Gilpin Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft (Mar. 10).

*Surrey*. Little Farleigh Green Farm, Little Warlingham (Mar. 10).

*Warwicks*. Bawnmore Farm, Bilton, Rugby (Mar. 9); Upper Radborne Farm, Southam, Rugby (Mar. 10); Field on Stratford Road, Monkspath, Shirley, Birmingham (Mar. 14).

*Yorks*. Slacks Farm, Bramley, Rotherham (Mar. 9); 24, Friars Lane, Beverley (Mar. 12).

## CORRESPONDENCE

*The views expressed in letters addressed to the Editor represent the personal opinions of the writer only and their publication does not imply endorsement by the B.V.A.*

### PREGNANCY TOXAEMIA IN EWES

Sir,—Over the years so much has been written about this disease that I find it difficult to decide whether the contents of this letter are boringly repetitive or refreshingly original.

Recent adverse climatic conditions have been accompanied in this district by the appearance of pregnancy toxaemia of ewes. In view of all the evidence I have been able to accumulate I have come to the conclusion that the aetiology of this condition is a very simple one. I write as a practitioner and not as a biochemist. The cause of the condition is a sudden cessation, or at least a sudden very marked reduction in the intake of protein by the ewe at precisely that time—the later stages of pregnancy—when the protein should be supplied on a rising scale to furnish rapidly growing foetuses. From a general point of view I suggest that in the past too conservative a view on the feeding of ewes has been accepted. Hay, oats, flaked maize and a little cotton or linseed cake and roots have been considered an adequate diet for in-lamb ewes. I feel that one has been inclined to forget that the pregnant grassland ewe is almost entirely dependent upon the pasture for her major supply of protein. When the weather, owing to snow, frost, or in more favoured climates drought, cuts off the supply of pasture, the ewe is left to depend upon hand feeding, the demand for protein is no longer met, and pregnancy toxaemia arises. I suggest that this very simple factor adequately explains the onset of the condition under all the circumstances in which it arises.

I suggest that if flockmasters would bear this in mind and supply ample additional protein when the natural supplies fail pregnancy toxaemia would no longer occur.

Yours faithfully,

J. P. PICKERING,

Orchard House,
Priestpopple,
Hexham.

### VETERINARY SURGEON EMERITUS

Sir,—There is published on page 208 of your issue of March 12th a list of 84 Ms.R.C.V.S. whose names have been removed from the Register of Veterinary Surgeons because they have not paid the annual fee. Of the 84 members 50 are designated as having "*requested* the removal of their name from the Register" (my italics). The word *requested* implies that the 50 members took the initiative in praying the Council of the Royal College to take away their legal title of veterinary surgeon and their right to practise veterinary surgery. Of at least some of these 50 would it not be more correct to say that they deeply regretted being unable or unwilling, on their existing resources, to pay the annual fee.

Some of the 55 are well known to me as retired on account of disability or old age, and cannot be justly expected to deprive their slender resources. I do hope we can find some way of avoiding such unkind acts to our brethren who are deserving of our kindness and brotherly love.

Subsection (1) of Section 25 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1948, states:— "All persons for the time being registered in the Register of Veterinary Surgeons . . . shall pay . . . such annual fee (*if any*) as the Council may prescribe . . . and *different fees may be prescribed for different classes of cases*" (my italics). Am I mistaken in suggesting that power is conferred upon the Council by subsection (1) either to abstain from enforcing the payment—reduced though it may be to one guinea for members retired from practice—or to levy a purely nominal fee, say, of a 2d. postage stamp?

Yours faithfully,

TOM HARE.

529, Finchley Road,
London, N.W.3.

*March 14th*, 1955.

Sir,—In your issue of March 12th you printed a list of 84 names which have been removed from the Register of Veterinary Surgeons. We were told that 50 of these persons had requested the removal of their names.

On turning to the Register, one saw that of these 50 persons, seven were Fellows of the Royal College. One also found that practically half of these 50 will have been qualified for 50 years or more by the end of this year, 11 for 60 years or more, and one for 70 years.

I cannot believe that the removal of their names after so long a time can have been a matter of indifference to many of these gentlemen, and I assume that in at least some cases the request was made for financial reasons.

Admittedly the Royal College has provided that the annual fee is reduced to one guinea in the case of members who make a declaration to the effect that they have retired and are not in practice, but I can imagine that even this sum might represent an expensive luxury to an elderly member whose retirement income was designed to meet the cost of living of 10 or 20 years ago.

I would suggest, therefore, that the Royal College should allow retired members to retain their names on the Register on payment of a purely nominal annual fee of one or two shillings. Failing this, their names might be entered, without fee, in an addendum to the Register proper. Either course would help us to remember some of our oldest living colleagues.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. GIBSON,

18, Stretten Avenue,
Cambridge.

*March 14th*, 1955.

## R.C.V.S. ELECTIONS

Sir,—Before we vote in Council elections, would it not be right if each candidate stated his policy if elected?

In particular I refer to the recent correspondence "Legitimate Grievance." We have, as yet, had no evidence at all to show that our present councillors are even interested in the matter. Their lack of activity is weak, and a stronger policy is long overdue.

Perhaps the present candidates would indicate to us just what they intend to do about this matter if elected. A few strong personalities certainly appear to be needed in the present Council.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT S. TOWNSON,

Mowbray,
Carlyon Bay,
St. Austell.

*February 22nd*, 1955.

Our correspondent appears to have overlooked the fact that a joint sub-committee of the Royal College and the B.V.A. is, at the present time, holding a series of meetings with the P.D.S.A. to discuss the recommendations of the Champion Committee.—EDITOR.

## SCHEME FOR ANIMAL NURSES

Sir,—May I, please, be allowed to reply to Mr. P. K. Van Stellingwerff's criticism of my letter of February 14th. Our different views on the problems of small-animal practice—mine which are gathered from a practice where 30 to 60 cases only are seen daily—must not let us forget that in my letter I said I supported the views of Mr. Steward (*Vet. Rec.*, Feb. 12th, 1954), who considers this scheme is unnecessary, and that lay help can be trained by the practitioner and obtained locally at a more economic rate. Thus it is not suggested that no help is necessary.

Several people, including Mr. P. K. Van Stellingwerff, persist in comparing the duties of these animal nurses with those of nurses in human hospitals. Surely we must realise that we are dealing with a completely different species. In human hospitals we find (*a*) anaesthetists—with a medical degree, (*b*) laboratory technicians—who examine faeces, urine, and blood, etc.—highly trained and a very jealous body as far as their status is concerned—they would not like to be regarded as nurses, (*c*) radiologists—again specially trained, (*d*) nurses, (*e*) orderlies. Your correspondent and others supporting this scheme would produce an individual who would be capable of doing all these duties.

Mr. P. K. Van Stellingwerff has created a precedent. He has promoted the animal nurses and calls them "veterinary" nurses. I expected this to happen. Could the day come—if we accepted them—that we might find R.C.V.S.R.N. (registered nurse) following their names? He also says that in practice he prefers to have the animal held by someone other than the owner. Are we to assume he would take these animal nurses with him on his round? If so, I don't think he would be very popular. Many clients do not even like you to take a student into their homes. We are further told that these nurses would give us more time to concentrate on more "professional work." Will he or some other kind person please tell us exactly what this "more professional work" is, where it is coming from, and who is going to pay to have it done?

It is claimed by your correspondent that most people prefer to have their pets hospitalised after serious surgical intervention. I am glad he agrees with me that the animals would be happier at home. The only people who request hospitalisation are, in my opinion, (1) those who have been treating a chronic case themselves for weeks, (2) those who find the animal has an infectious disease, and that they are due to go for their holidays in seven days time or (3) those who keep a dog but do not really care for dogs. I have, to-day, contacted 24 owners of small animals and asked them to choose between hospital or home after a major operation to their pet. They all preferred to have the animal at home, and 20 of them assured me the animal would be happier at home. No doubt your correspondent can find 24 clients with exactly opposite views.

In closing may I thank Mr. William Trigger for his reference to this scheme. He has mentioned an aspect to which I am afraid I had never given thought, and I feel somewhat mean when I think I have neglected to include a more worthy cause.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. JOHNSON,

2, Carlton Street,
Leicester.

*March 14th*, 1955.

## METALDEHYDE POISONING

Sir,—I was interested in Mr. E. A. McPherson's article on the above subject.

In November, 1950, I was called to a dog who had eaten some "meta." Not knowing what this contained I asked the local chemist who informed me that it was metaldehyde; he also kindly looked up the antidote in Martindale & Westcott for me. This gave among other antidotes calcium gluconate.

The dog was showing similar symptoms to those described in the above article and was given calcium borogluconate intravenously. It made a quick and uneventful recovery. A second case was similarly treated in May, 1951, and recovered after two doses of calcium at a few hours' interval. Each case was also given an injection of apomorphine to induce emesis.

Yours faithfully,

T. B. YARROW,

110, Corve Street,
Ludlow,
Salop.

*March 7th*, 1955.